



ФОНДАЦИЯ РЕСУРСЕН ЦЕНТЪР

Resource Center Foundation

electronic version
www.ngorc.net

Informational bulletin

ISSN 1311-8323

Useful information

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We present you

NGO CATALOGUE

What brought about the need for a Catalogue of Non-Governmental Organizations in Bulgaria?

It became necessary because over 6400 non-profit legal entities are registered in Bulgaria, and the lack of information about "who is who" prevents them from working in teams, from cooperating to resolve global problems in society.

The last public database of non-governmental organization is the NGO Catalogue published by Open Society Foundation in 1998. There followed a number of catalogues and reference books published by various organizations, and of regional nature.

The present catalogue was elaborated

in English and Bulgarian languages.

The Foundation expresses its gratitude to all organizations, which responded to our initiative and were included in the catalogue by filling out inquiry forms, which we used to produce this publication.

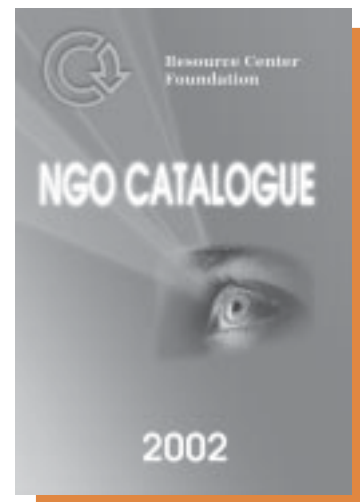
Each of you not included in the paper variant of the catalogue may be included in its electronic version.

The electronic version is a search facility utilizing various criteria: alphabetic search, name, city, registered in public or private benefit, or not yet re-registered, number of full time employees, spheres of activity, organization type – operative, funding or both, geographic coverage, donors, any additional busi-

ness activity.

The main objective of the electronic variant is to maintain permanently updated information, which is why we request you in case of any change in the information you have submitted, to contact us so that we can promptly update this and you can always find the correct information.

The electronic variant can be found at www.ngorc.net



Resource Center Foundation expresses its gratitude to the Institute of Sustainable Communities/ Democratic Network Program/ for the financial support of this initiative. We hope the Catalogue would prove useful to you via the feedback you would provide.

Further information
can be obtained by:

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The bulletin is published with the financial support of Democracy Network Program, financed by USAID and governed in Bulgaria by the Institute for Sustainable Communities.



Free dissemination

Resource Center Foundation with own contribution in the process of integration in NATO and EU

Under the honorary auspices of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on 21 and 22 September 2002, in Sofia, the International Conference "Civil Society and Security Sector Reforms in Southeast Europe" was held, organized by Resource Center Foundation" and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with Open Society Foundation, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, Atlantic Club, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Euro-Atlantic Security & Foreign Policy Foundation, and the Institute of Social & Political Analyses. The Conference became possible thanks to the financial support of NATO, Stability Pact, Norwegian Government and Open Society Foundation.

The conference was dedicated to the memory of the victims in the terrorist acts

on 11th September 2001 in USA. Representatives of NATO and Stability Pact, of ministries and government institutions, of non-governmental and academic organizations from the region and from NATO member countries, of mass media, all took part in its work.

The first working session "Regional stability and security sector reforms" was opened by Dimiter Ludzhev – chairman of the Organizing Committee; Solomon Pasi – minister of Foreign Affairs, made the introductory speech, and Georgi Petkanov – minister of Interior, greeted the participants. Of specific interest were the reports presented by Gen. Nikola Kolev

– Bulgarian Army Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Anoreas Kouselis – SEEBRIG commander, Dr. Andrew Coti from Bradford University (Great Britain), Jean-Christian Kadi – deputy of the special UN representative on



justice and police issues to Kosovo, Division General Pavel Abraham – Romanian deputy minister of Interior, Colonel Valeri Rachev – Deputy Head of G. S. Rakovski Military Academy, Boykov Kotzev – Bulgarian deputy

minister of Interior, Ivan Chobanov – Director of National Security Service, Bulgaria, Colonel Zlatan Jeremic – Headquarters of Yugoslavian Army, as well as by the rest participants in the first session.

The accent in the conference work was the second session on the topic of Civil control over security systems, which was opened and chaired by Jose – Maria Lopez Navaro – director of Information & Media Department at NATO Headquarters. Presentations on the topic were delivered by Timothy Done – Center on International Relations & Security (Canada), Troels Froeling – department director at Human Rights Center (Denmark), Michael von Tangen Page – international observer (Great

Britain), Angela Krachun – second secretary at Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lubomir Ivanov – chairman of Atlantic Club council (Bulgaria), Sotirik Chroni – Institute of Democracy and Mediation (Albania), Andrey Lepavtzov – president of Euro-Atlantic Youth Forum (Macedonia), Jose Kevado –

Ministry of Defense (Spain).

The reports as well as the subsequent discussion pointed out that the well-informed civil society, through non-governmental organizations, professional associations, independent

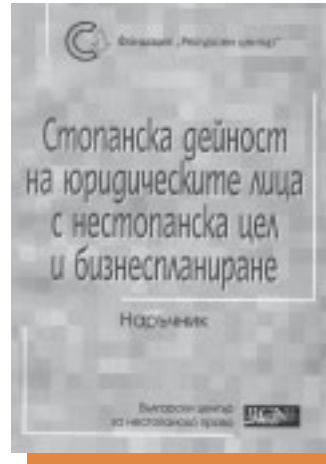
media and research institutes, can play a key role in ensuring transparency and accountability of security systems in respect of society, for protection of national interests and compliance with law and human rights. Representatives of NATO and Stability Pact underlined the need for the civil society to have a real opportunity to influence decision making related to military reforms, fight against terrorism, customs control, police and other security spheres.

The third session of the conference, Democracy, civil society and security in Southeast Europe, was chaired by Philip Fleuri – deputy director of Geneva Center for Democratic Control over Armed Forces, by Todor Churov – Director of NATO & International Security department at Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by Stelian Stoychev – Executive director of Resource Center Foundation. Is there “Europeization” on the Balkans and how to overcome the culture of dependency on international institutions? Is it possible for the countries in the region to ensure democratic government, transparency and civil control on security systems? These and other questions resulting from the topic, were touched upon by the presentations of Ali Hikmet – advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Turkey), Fabrizio Luciola – Secretary General of Italian Atlantic Committee, Thomas– Dussel Young – Monterey Center of civil-military relations (USA), Boyko Noev – Center of Democratic Research (Bulgaria), Marian Zulean – expert on NATO issues at the President of Romania, Milovan Blagojevic – deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (Bosnia & Herzegovina). Nikolay Svinarov – Minister of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria greeted the participants.

Of special interest to attendees as well as to mass media was the par-

Loans for NGOs

In July the consecutive issue of Resource Center Foundation was published – “Business Activity of Non-Profit Legal Entities (NPLE) and Business Planning”. The manual was developed jointly with Bulgarian Center on Non-Business Law. The first part contains information on the legal forms of business activity by NPLE. After you have read about the advantages and weak points of each of those, you will be able to decide on the most appropriate form for realization of your business idea.



The second part of the publication represents a brief instruction manual for business plan development. It will be useful

for starting a business or expanding a business as well as for fund raising.

The manual contains specific steps related to business idea definition, collection and analysis of data and information as well as guidance for preparation of financial projection, which are an integral part of the business planning process. This manual will be especially useful for NPLE which intend to approach Credits for NGOs Program of Resource Center Foundation.

The publication is disseminated free of charge and can be obtained at the offices of Resource Center Foundation.

Current information of loans issued so far under the Credits for NGOs Program

	Number	Sum
Bridge loans	18	252 730 BGN
Business activity loans	10	194 470 BGN
General	28	447 200 BGN

ticipation in this session of Bruce Jackson – chairman of the American Committee on NATO Enlargement. His presentation “Democracy after Prague” provided grounds for serious discussions and comments both at the conference and in mass media.

Georgi Parvanov – President of the Republic of Bulgaria, delivered the closing speech at the conference. It outlines the main problems facing

Bulgaria on the road to NATO as well as the basic characteristics of Bulgarian integration model to NATO and EU.

The conference attracted great media and public interest and, according to opinions of senior officers of NATO and Stability Pact, published by Bulgarian newspapers, it turned out one of the important events of the year.

Supporting of SMEs in Bulgaria

Established for the purpose of supporting small and medium business companies, the Microcredite program entered the high risk market of entrepreneurs with no access to bank resources, with its unique scheme in the country, representing supplementation of the pure financial activity – credit issuance, with NGO capacity and potential. The 9 Microfondos created on this principle in Smolyan, Sliven, Kardzhali, Vratza, Silistra, Blagoevgrad, Bourgas, Sofia district, and Russe, all issue credits under relieved conditions to companies in need and to emerging ones, to private farmers and persons. Along with this, the Microfondos support local business sectors through free consultations on company accounting, taxation, social insurance, business planning and other pressing business problems facing emerging companies. They observe and monitor current activities of beneficiary companies thus strengthening and stabilizing their financial discipline in the process of credit repaying. They provide opportunities for training and qualification of owners and managers of local SMEs with the purpose of improving their managerial activity. They carry out periodic economic and market analyses of the local business environment, with facilitate the consulting part of the program and provide rational ideas on entire activity development. They carry out a permanent survey process for identification of innovation-oriented persons and potential newly established companies, which need institutional and financial support to commence and expand their activities.

Good cooperation with our partners – Soros Economic Development Fund (SED) – New York and United Bulgarian Bank (UBB) led to agreements for changes in the following directions:

✓ The guarantee amount for the

Microfond credits provided by SED in favor of UBB increased to USD5 000 000.

- ✓ Microfondos became independent decision-makers – i.e. they accept, process and analyze credit proposals, check the credit file and issue the final opinion for credit approval to the respective UBB branch. The bank organizes contract execution and issues the loan.
- ✓ The maximum amount of credits extended by Microfondos increased to BGN.50 000. So far, big credits were only issued by Smolyan Microfond.
- ✓ Access is enlarged of applicant companies by virtue of the requirement for 50 employees (both full-time and part-time).
- ✓ Interest rate on credits fell by two points.
- ✓ Application document package was made minimal.

In three years 777 credits have been extended to the total amount of BGN.8 089 668.

The “micro-micro” credits issued by Smolyan Microfond enjoy a special interest. The initiative, which started in 2001, for financing micro-business ideas with interest-free loans of up to BGN.2 000, without the partner bank (UBB) involvement, proved very successful and useful for 209 clients, all credited to the amount of BGN.394 550.

A good efficiency indicator of credits is the number of new jobs – 1342, of comparatively low cost. The prevailing part of the new jobs are in the field of trading and services, then come agriculture and production. It should be pointed out that each microfond provides sustainable employment to 4–5 highly qualified experts on average.

Resource Center Foundation has the ambition to continue developing this program in view of its strongly positive results. Expansion of our regional structure network will continue

by the year-end with the opening of another Microfond in Razgrad.

With the conviction that we will be able to expand our activity perimeter, we made the first step with the establishment of a new organization in June – MICROFOND Foundation. By means of separation of two Resource Center programs – Microcrediting and Credits for NGOs, we aim at making this structure a micro-funding institution of national importance utilizing its own know-how.

Contacts

“Microfond – Kardjali”

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Central Register of NPLE

Central Register of Non-Profit Legal Entities designated for public benefit activities at the Ministry of Justice

What is the register and how can we use it?

The Web-application provides public access via Internet to the Information Bulletin and search and display options for Central Register data.

Web-application functions are realized by virtue of five Internet pages:

- Home page
- Information Bulletin
- Search
- Legal entity presentation
- Document review

1. Home page

The home page contains general information about the Central Register.

2. Information Bulletin

This page allows access to Information Bulletin issues. The Information Bulletin is published once a month and contains three lists: "List of registered legal entities", "List of obliterated legal entities", and "List of legal entities, which have been refused registration". In order to view a specific list, first the month and year of the publication and the specific list must be selected and the Show button must

be clicked. The result is displayed as a list (table) of legal entities. The name of each legal entity in this list represents a link to detailed information displayed on a separate page.

3. Search

Search functions for legal entities are realized via selection of various criteria whereto legal entities must correspond. Search criteria are, as follows:

- ✓ Name of legal entity
- ✓ Organizational form
- ✓ Seat
- ✓ Key word in goals and activities

After typing the search criteria, the Search button must be clicked. The result is displayed as a list (table) of legal entities. The name of each legal entity in this list represents a link to detailed information displayed on a separate page.

4. Presentation of legal entities

This page displays information on selected legal entity. The following

data is displayed:

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Address
- ✓ Organizational form
- ✓ Phone/fax/e-mail/Internet page
- ✓ Details about court registration
- ✓ Goals and activities
- ✓ Management body
- ✓ Members of the management body

In addition, in a separate table, the names are displayed of public documents submitted by the legal entity. The document name is a link to reviewing the electronic copy of the document.

5. Document review

This page allows reviewing of the electronic copy of selected document. It could be done page by page, The image could be enlarged/diminished, printed, etc.

For further information:

**Nadezhda Koleva –
nadya@ngorc.net**

Internet Rights Bulgaria Foundation

Mission

Internet Rights Bulgaria (IRB) Foundation aims at encouraging Internet use by organizations working in the field of protection and dissemination of social rights in Bulgaria as well as popularizing initiatives in the social sector via Internet.

Goals

Foundation goals are, as follows:

- ✓ To give information and adequate contribution to protection of interests and rights with regard to Internet policy issues of Bulgarian social NGOs;
- ✓ To popularize Internet use by Bulgarian social NGOs and to utilize its potential for supporting their work, for establishing contacts with European NGOs working in various social fields, in particular;
- ✓ To initiate dialogue as to intensify and facilitate communications between NGOs from various social sectors, the government and media in Bulgaria and EU member countries, and to increase social activity on local and national levels.

These goals are in line with EU social policy goals for civil society strengthening and preparation for accession to EU of candidate countries. These refer to a very important aspect which otherwise could have been disregarded, namely – the important role of electronic communications in the development of international civil society.

Main goals

Main IRB goals are, as follows:

- ✓ To create a partnership network among social NGOs in Bulgaria by providing information services via Internet;

- ✓ To create Internet page with updated information related to protection of NGO social rights in Bulgaria, to publish initiatives and campaigns as well as links to other social NGOs and NGO networks;
- ✓ To offer training both in Internet use and on topics of EU social policy.

History of the Foundation

The idea of IRB originated from the experience and the work on Internet Rights of European Civil Society Project funded by Open Society Foundation – New York, which was completed at the beginning of this year. The decision to start a pilot project in Bulgaria was made on the final meeting of experts from various countries working on the European project “Internet Rights”.

Internet Rights Bulgaria Foundation was established in May 2002 and registered in August 2002. Although preparatory activities and surveys of the social sphere and rights in Bulgaria commenced much earlier, only in the middle of this year the need arose of a legal entity formation with a non-profit organization status.

Bulgarian project is the first of a number of projects related to Internet rights, which have been planned to be implemented in central and eastern Europe and the Balkan region, the aim being to use it as a pilot one and experience therefrom to be used in other countries.

In assistance to Bulgarian NGOs

Internet Rights Bulgaria will assist Bulgarian social NGOs in the following aspects:

- ✓ By providing information in the form of news and features on the work

of Bulgarian social NGOs as well as a database of organizations. The Internet page will help establish contacts and partnerships not only amongst active NGOs in Bulgaria but also with organizations in the same sphere all over Europe, which will stimulate development of Bulgarian social NGOs;

- ✓ Acting as the focus and source of specific information, the web-page will help create uniformity and sharing of experience between Bulgarian social NGOs;
- ✓ The Internet-page will represent useful information source in relation to European social research, addresses and contact information for European organizations involved in social activities, etc.;
- ✓ It will improve communication between non-profit organizations and government and will offer to them a free forum for claiming their rights.

Contact us

If you wish to cooperate with us, we will welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss the project in detail. For further information, please contact:

Internet Rights Bulgaria Foundation

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**Lyulin Res. Quart., Bl. 615,
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Mobile: 088 745158

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Kristina Haralanova

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Discussion on tax law amendment

In continuation of the campaign, which started last year, a working group was created of members of parliament, representatives of the Ministry of Finance and experts from Bulgarian Center of Non-Business law, resource Center, The Center of democratic research, who are working on new proposals for amendment of taxation laws, such amendments impacting non-profit legal entities.

The proposals for amendments will refer mainly to the Corporate Tax Law and the Personal Revenue Tax Law. The amendments will be directed to relieving taxation regime for non-profit legal entities as well as relieving taxation regime for donors to these non-profit legal entities.

A possibility is being discussed, the taxation regime for non-profit legal entities under the Corporate Tax Law to include 100 per cent profit tax reimbursement to those entities designated to carry out public benefit activity and listed in the Central Register at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria, the scope of such activity being stated in the articles of association/incorporation and directly related to the main activity. Another feasible change refers to the possibility to exempt from tax at the source dividends and liquidation quotas calculated by local legal entities in favor of non-profit legal entities designated to carry out public benefit activity and listed in the Central Register. Currently, this tax is 15%.

In relation to tax relief of donations, attempts are being made to decrease the final tax under the Corporate Tax

Law from 25% to 15% on donations reported as expenditure, where the donation has been made in favor of non-profit legal entities designated to carry out public benefit activity and listed in the Central Register at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria.

As far as the regime under Personal Revenue Tax Law is concerned, the aim is to provide opportunity for the taxable basis of revenue of persons with employment or equivalent contracts to be decreased by 10% donation relief, which will give equal status in terms of taxation to employment and non-employment revenue.

The possibility is also being discussed of status equalization of legal entities in private and public benefit in terms of tax relief under the Law on Local Taxes and Fees for donation received/provided.

Business Activity of NPLE

The Law on Non-Profit Legal Entities (LNPLE), which represents constitutional legislation for organizations in Bulgarian non-profit sector, for the first time explicitly stated the possibility for NPLE to engage in business activity.

According to art.3, para 3 of LNPLE, NPLE may undertake additional business activity only if related to the main activity scope of registration and only if using the revenue to achieve the goals set by Statutes or Articles of Association. According to the law, the scope of business activity shall be defined by NPLE

Statutes or Articles of Association, with profit distribution being explicitly prohibited.

Being Additional

This criterion requires the volume of activity undertaken by the same NPLE and directed to profit realization, to be significantly less than that of the main activity as registered. This means that the major part of organization's available resources on principle should be mobilized and directed to achieving the goals, mission, objectives and priorities outlining the framework of NPLE main – non-profit activity rather than to business deals, paid service provision, etc. with the aim to receive revenue.

Being related to the main activity and targeted utilization of revenue therefrom

The current LNPLE allows the possibility for NPLE to engage in related business activity only, i.e. additional activity related to the main activity scope and revenue therefrom used to achieve the goals as stated in the articles of association. There follows that any other business activity not complying with any of these requirements would have been deemed illegal and would have resulted in liquidation of the legal entity.

The relation between business activity and main activity could be viewed in various dimensions – as a reason and result or as preceding, concomitant or succeeding the main activity.

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Discussion on tax law amendment ...

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Types of non-related NPPE business activities could be grouped, as follows:

1. Where it is of such volume and scale that its implementation requires concentration of a more significant portion of organization resources as compared to resources directed to main activity implementation;
2. Where various business activities of the organization are not related to the goals, objectives, mission and priorities of NPPE;

3. Where revenue from business activity is not directed to achieving organization's goals but invested in another business activity or distributed by organization members or organization management bodies.

Such business activity of NPPE is considered illegal and could bring about termination of the legal entity.

***Being regulated
by NPPE Articles
of Association***

The law requires NPPE Statutes

or Articles of Association, similarly to the scope of activity of commercial companies, to state the scope of additional business activity of the organization using almost the same form of expression as the commercial entities. If such regulation is missing, NPPE shall not undertake such activity as it is not complying with one of the special law requirements – to be set forth in the constitutional act, thence the breach of a principle criterion of business activity – compliance with the law.

*You can send your recommendations
and opinions regarding the Informational
Bulletin on the following
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Phone: 02/915 48 10; 087 211151

Editor: Antitza Stoyanova

Art design: „Trakia-M“

